Instructional Technology Newsline

Instructional Technology Staff
(573) 751-8247

http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters

◆ Deborah S. Sutton, Director
◆ Claranne Vogel, Supervisor
◆ Lisa Walters, Library Media and
   Technology Consultant
◆ Rosalyn Wieberg, Supervisor
◆ Shirley Brumley, Administrative Assistant

◆ Instructional Technology Update

On January 21, Governor Holden gave his State of the State address and presented his proposed budget for 2004-2005. The proposed budget looks much like what is funded for FY04 – with nearly $5 million for Safe Schools and a zero budget for Education Technology. While there may be signs that the state's economy is improving, the Governor and members of the General Assembly are all claiming that the state's budget still has major problems. Add to this is the fact that nearly half of the state's schools have filed suit declaring the state's foundation formula is unfair and, to be fair, consultants have determined the foundation would need to be increased substantially. It goes without saying that much of this year's legislative session will focus on K-12 education. We all must stay up to-date on what is going on in the Capitol and be prepared to help inform our legislators about what is working in our schools and where support is deserved and necessary. -Deb

FY04 Technology Budget / Grant Programs
Technology Acquisition Grant (TAG) Program
The Governor's proposed FY05 budget, released on January 21, 2004, did not include reinstatement of the Technology Acquisition Grant Program.

Technology Network Program (TNP)
MOREnet staffs are working on several initiatives to support schools' use of the Internet.

- MOREnet is offering a new service to districts to test the district's network security (see related article in this issue of Newsline).

- The MOREnet Council (see details below) recently approved the purchase of a statewide Centra contract license to support econferencing capabilities (see related article in this issue of *Newsline*).
- MOREnet, DESE, and the Office of the Secretary of State and State Library have been negotiating with staff of The NetSmartz Workshop that teaches educators and students (and parents) how to be safer when using the Internet. Look to see NetSmartz added to MOREnet training offerings.
- Working with the State Library and DESE, MOREnet conducted research on technical issues of Internet content filtering on the MOREnet network and posted a request for bids. Meanwhile, a selected group of educators from across the state will be asked to complete an online survey about their current uses of filtering solutions and interest in a MOREnet-managed service.
- In conjunction with the State Library, a selected group of library media specialists from across the state will be asked to complete a survey on their use of online resources and interest in state-provided products.
  (Contact Eric Nicklas for more information about these initiatives.)

MOREnet Council Formed -- The Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Secretary of State's office, and the Department of Higher Education (DHE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in early 2003. The Memorandum created the MOREnet Council whose purpose is "to direct and oversee planning and budgeting for the MOREnet infrastructure including the technical support required for the future growth and success of programs sponsored by Council members." The Council is led by a staff member from each of the three (DESE, DHE, Secretary of State) agencies and two external representatives appointed by each agency. In addition the Vice President for Information Systems for the University of Missouri System is a member of the Council. The MOREnet Council meets quarterly and has as its responsibilities the review and approval of long-range plans, of the annual financial plan and general business practices and policies at MOREnet. In addition, the Council reviews and recommends the annual appropriation requests on behalf of MOREnet.

Safe Schools Grant Program
2003-2004 – The deadline for obligating funds for the purchase of equipment and materials and supplies is March 31.

2204-2005 -- Governor Holden's FY05 budget proposed continued funding of the Safe Schools Program.

New Edition Released: "Practical Guide for Crisis Response in Our Schools"
School crisis response can no longer be delegated solely to members of a School Crisis Response Team, but is the responsibility of all educators. Published by The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, this publication provides a structure and process for effectively managing the wide spectrum of school-based crises. It conveys critical information to assist schools in responding effectively to "everyday crises" as well as school-based disasters. The website offers downloadable school crisis response documents, information about the guide and its authors, who uses the guide, and pricing ($24.95) and ordering information http://www.crisisinfo.org/schoolcrisisresponse

Title IID "Ed Tech" Program
2003-2004 – The deadline for obligating funds for the purchase of equipment and materials and supplies is March 31.

2004-2005 – Indications are Congress will level-fund the Ed Tech Program for next year. Application information for Missouri's FY05 Title IID competitive grant program were mailed to districts in late January. Grants are available to NEW districts wanting to participate in the eMINTS program for the first time and ESTABLISHED districts wanting to expand eMINTS into new classrooms or participate in the professional development for education technology specialists. The application due date is March 31, 2004. A general program information workshop will be conducted on February 23, 2004 in Jefferson City. [See Instructional Technology website for program details, application forms, FAQs, and workshop information.]

Census of Technology / Core Data Screens 30 and 31
2004 Form Samples – (Reminder that FORMS AVAILABLE FOR PREVIEW) The Census of Technology (COT) is collected via Core Data during the April Cycle. The 2004 COT forms and instructions for completing the forms can be accessed on the Instructional Technology home web page. These are being released now to help district and school building personnel prepare for the data collection and submit the necessary data by the April 15 deadline date. Our special thanks to Craig Snethen from Fulton Public Schools and Michelle Dryer with the Nixa R-II School District who volunteered their time and assistance in reviewing draft forms.

The state summary report of the 2003 COT data is posted on the IT website at http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/index.htm.

E-rate Program
Funding Year 2003 – Wave 20 for E-rate funding for funding year 2003 (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) will be issued on Tuesday, January 20, 2004. In this wave, the SLD will be committing over $49.8 million in 271 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave included funding for priority 1 (telecommunications and Internet access) and for priority 2 (internal connections) at the 85% - 90% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed nearly $1.7 billion in over 29,700 letters for funding year 2003. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete. Visit the E-rate website at http://www.sl.universalservice.org/default.asp.

Funding Year 2004 – Special Note from Jeanne Sullivan (MOREnet), January 29, 2004
The Form 471 Window closes on Wednesday, February 4 at 11:59 p.m. EST. By this date and time, a Form 470 must have been posted online for 28 days and the Form 471 must be either submitted online or postmarked. The Form 470 and Form 471 certification pages must also be postmarked by this date if they weren't electronically certified.

It is highly recommended that anything mailed to the SLD be sent with some sort of receipt confirmation or tracking capability. Don't forget, the submission of the 471 does not "complete" the application process. After you receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (which could be months after the 471 is submitted) you will need to complete a Form 486.

Washington News / Update

FY04 Budget News -- Last week, the Senate approved the FY04 Omnibus Appropriations Bill on a vote of 65 to 28, and the President is expected to sign it shortly. Below are the expected key appropriations amounts (minus the .59% across-the-board cut):

Program	FY03	Administration Budget Request	FY 04 Omnibus
Title I	$11.684 billion	$12.35billion	$12.4 billion
Professional Development	$2.93 billion	$2.85 billion	$2.95 billion
21st Century	$994 million	$600 million	$1.005 billion
Reading First	$994 million	$1.15 billion	$1.03 billion
Literacy Through School Libraries	$12 million	$28 million	$19.96 million
Education Technology	$695.5 million	$700.5 million	$695.5 million
PT3	$62.1 million	$0	$0
Star Schools	$27.3 million	$0	$20.5 million
Community Technology Centers	$32.3 million	$0	$10 million
State Data	N/A	$0	$0
Title V, Part A	$382.5 million	$385 million	$300 million

The President is expected to release his Budget Proposal for FY05 in early February.

John Bailey Leaving His Post – Effective January 31, 2004, John Bailey resigned from his position with the U.S. Department of Education to join the President's campaign as a deputy policy director. Susan Patrick has assumed John's responsibilities as the Acting Director of the Office of Educational Technology.

St. Louis to Host National Leadership Summit -- The U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring three "No Child Left Behind Leadership Summits" intended to provide technical assistance to state and local education leaders on how technology can assist the implementation of NCLB. They will be held during the spring and summer of 2004. The goals of the summits are to provide states and districts with the foundational knowledge and tools to implement NCLB; allow state and district-level team participants an opportunity to work together to develop an understanding of effective ways to implement NCLB using technology solutions; build state and districts' capacity for promoting and sustaining effective professional development in the selection and effective use of technology tools; and engage states and large school districts in a national movement to improve academic achievement for all students through the appropriate and effective use of technology. The first Summit, "Empowering Accountability and Assessment Using Technology," will be held at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis on March 10-12, 2004. See: http://www.nclbtechsummits.org/

◆ Ed Tech Research, Publications, Resources

Center on Education Policy Reports on Year 2 of the No Child Left Behind Act
The Center on Education Policy recently released a report on implementing the No Child Left Behind Act. Among the major findings, that states and school districts are trying hard to meet the requirements of the Act and agree with its goals; broader and deeper effects of the law were being felt by school districts in 2003, which is resulting in additional help for schools identified for improvement; choosing another public school is rarely used by parents of children in identified schools, while the option of receiving tutoring services is used more frequently; states and school districts are moving slowly to update the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals as required by the Act; some of the requirements of the Act are unworkable; and states and school districts face serious funding pressures and a lack of capacity to carry out the Act. The report says that the NCLB Act has already put more than a quarter of the nation's public schools on academic probation, and that thousands more are likely to face sanctions.

The report, "From the Capital to the Classroom: Year 2 of the No Child Left Behind Act," is based on a survey of 47 states and the District of Columbia, a nationally representative survey of 274 school districts, in-depth case studies of 33 urban, suburban, and rural school districts, and other research methods.
See: http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/nclby2/cep_nclb_y2.pdf

e-Lead Web Site to Enhance Professional Development for Principals
The Institute for Educational Leadership and the Laboratory for Student Success have created a web site called e-Lead, a free online resource intended to provide states and school districts with information about how to provide better professional development for school principals. The site suggests that professional development works best when it is focused on sound learning strategies, driven by a clear definition of leadership, conducted within the context of an overall plan, anchored by leadership standards, designed and implemented according to proven practices, and evaluated through processes that seek meaningful results. http://www.e-lead.org

NSBA Publishes Primer on How to Start a School Foundation
Subtitled, "What you should know before you start fundraising," this primer was developed by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to assist school board members in thinking broadly about education foundations at a time when these effective school reform organizations are becoming increasingly popular due to decreased tax revenues, budget cuts, and rising expectations. As Kate Coventry reports, K-12 education foundation activities run the gamut from funding scholarship and innovative programs to improve teaching and learning, to reinvigorating community participation in public education and spurring parent and citizen activism. The downloadable publication also includes key steps to consider in starting a school foundation, local education fund case studies, and an article

by PEN's president Wendy D. Puriefoy on the growing partnership between local education funds and school board leaders.
http://www.nsba.org/site/docs/32800/32703.pdf

Grants.gov Web Site Helps in Finding Federal Dollars
A new resource on the web should make searching and applying for federal grants much easier. The grants.gov site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Navigation of the site is simple. The site includes information about more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding more than $350 billion annually to state and local governments, education institutions, and other organizations. http://www.grants.gov/

TechSoup.org Web Site Offers Nonprofits Free Technology Resources
Techsoup.org offers nonprofits an online resource for technology needs by providing free information, resources, and support. TechSoup works with technology partners to provide nonprofit organizations access to donated and discounted technology products. TechSoup provides instructional articles and worksheets for nonprofit staff members who utilize information technology.
http://www.techsoup.org/

> 10 Tips for Funding Technology – This January 22, 2004 article explains how to fund and sustain technology in an organization. While technology plans are great, organizations need to be able to pay for all the equipment, training, and staffing costs the plan requires. While there are no silver bullets when it comes to fundraising, especially during tough economic times, the article offers ten tips to help find the funds needed to implement and sustain critical technology strategies. http://www.techsoup.org/howto/articlepage.cfm?ArticleId=538

Guide Released on Creating Partnerships, Bridging Worlds: Family And Community Engagement
For many students, particularly students from low-income families and students of color, a significant disconnect exists between the worlds of school, family, and community. A new guide helps schools and teachers bring these diverse worlds together and recognize the assets and strengths inherent in each. Such efforts help schools to be more successful in supporting and engaging students, resulting in higher student achievement. The guide provides resources, models, and tools to help schools create a framework for family and community engagement. The framework, based in part on the work of Dr. Joyce Epstein at the National Network of Partnership Schools, Johns Hopkins University, consists of: Parenting; Communicating; Volunteering; Supporting Student Learning at Home; Inclusive Decision Making; and Collaborating with the Community. Turning Points is a comprehensive school reform model designed to strengthen the academic core of middle schools and to establish challenging, caring, and equitable learning environments that meet the needs of young adolescents.
http://www.turningpts.org/guides.htm

SIIA Announces 2003 Codie Software Award Finalists
The Codie awards, established by the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) to showcase what it considers the best software products and services that were introduced last year, announced its list of finalists last week. The finalists in categories associated with higher education are noted below.
Source: Syllabus News Update for Tuesday, January 13, 2004

Best Postsecondary Education Instructional Solution:
- ALEKS, from ALEKS Corp. / McGraw-Hill Higher Education
- Advanced Listening, from DynEd International, Inc.
- Sanako Lounge, from Sanako Corp.
- EndNote, form Thomson ISI ResearchSoft
- Reel Society, from WILL Interactive, Inc. / McGraw Hill - Higher Education

Best Education Administration Solution:
- e*Assessment, from Harcourt Supplemental Publishers / Wireless Generation
- GPS smartPortal, from iAssessment, LLC

- Maple T.A., from Maplesoft / Brownstone Research Group, Inc.
- PowerSchool 3.6, from PowerSchool / Apple
- SCT Banner, from SCT

Best Educational Special Needs Solution
- Kurzweil 3000, from Kurzweil Educational Systems
- LearnStar SC, from ESL Module, LearnStar Inc.
- deafplanet.com, from marblemedia
- NEARStar, from Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
- TIENET, from TIECorp

Best Educational Total Comprehensive Solution
- Blackboard Learning System, from Blackboard Inc.
- Discourse, from Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Mapping Our World: GIS Lessons for Educators, from ESRI Press
- The Achievement Planner, from Kaplan K12 Learning Services
- Yearly ProgressPro, from McGraw-Hill Digital Learning

◆ Connections 2004: MOREnet Spring Technical Conference

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet
http://www.more.net/conferences/spring2004/

Connections 2004: MOREnet's Spring Technical Conference is scheduled for March 24-25, 2004 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri. Register online for this conference Jan. 26 - March 12.

This conference is designed to provide information on current technologies and solutions as well as offer insight on the future directions of technology in education. It is targeted to those who manage and support technology. This includes, but not limited to, technology coordinators and technology support specialists from higher education, K-12, MOREnet affiliates and public libraries in Missouri that are current MOREnet customers. For complete information visit the conference website.

MOREnet Announces Two New Fee-Based Services
Remote Vulnerability Assessment Service
http://www.more.net/services/rva/

In December, MOREnet announced its Remote Vulnerability Assessment Service. This service studies your organization's publicly visible Internet presence. The assessment, performed over the Internet, looks for signs of vulnerabilities that could pose a risk if not addressed. Essentially, MOREnet's Security staff provides a "hacker's" view of your public network, allowing you to exercise due diligence in planning and to secure it against current threats.

Since new vulnerabilities are discovered daily, MOREnet's Security Team researches and reviews new security tools and methodologies that can be used to collect data on customer networks. The data gathered is used to provide customers with a clear, non-biased view of the current status of the network upon which to base a risk assessment. Based on the results of the vulnerability assessment, the MOREnet Security Team creates a report of the findings with recommendations for actions that the site should take to remedy or mitigate vulnerabilities discovered during the review.

All current MOREnet customers are eligible for this for-fee service. For more information, go to the website.

e-Conferencing Service
MOREnet is pleased to announce the purchase of Centra 7. This tool will allow MOREnet to offer for-fee e-Conferencing services to its customers.

Centra is an Internet-based, e-Conferencing tool suite that allows people to communicate and create virtual learning and meeting environments over the Internet. Audio conferencing, live one-way video, collaborative conferencing and Web conferencing are all components of this e-Conferencing tool suite. Meeting or class participants can share applications, documents, websites or presentations with all participants. Chat and polling capabilities provide channels for private communication and group feedback. Archival capabilities allow meetings and class sessions to be saved for later viewing.

e-Conferencing service implementation timeline:
- **Mid-February 2004:** Customer pricing and service details available
- **Early March 2004:** Service roll out and customer training available for Centra Symposium, Conference and eMeeting. Training sessions will introduce users to the tool suite's features for setting up and conducting classes and meetings.
- **March 24-25, 2004:** Centra e-Conferencing service highlighted at the MOREnet Spring Technical and HELIX conferences; vendor will be onsite and available for in-depth questions and answers
- **Early April 2004:** Centra Knowledge Center will be available for content management.

For more information visit

- Centra's website - http://www.centra.com
- MOREnet's website - http://www.more.net/services/e-conferencing/

◆ METPA Forum: No Child Left Behind and Technology
--*Submitted by David Dillard, Vocational Director, Arcadia Valley CTC*

The Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (MEPTA) is sponsoring its Spring Forum titled *No Child Left Behind and Technology*. The Forum will be broadcast over ITV from the MOREnet building in Columbia, Missouri on March 10, 2004. The Forum will run from 9:30 AM till 12:00 noon. The session will assist schools in using their federal funds to best meet the demands the new law is placing on them. An introduction to the NCLB legislation and how technology can play a part in raising student achievement is a timely issue for all schools.

There will be an overview of the NCLB law as it pertains to technology provided by Randy Rook, Director of the DESE Grants Management Section and examples of how to use federal funds for technology presented by David Dillard, Federal Programs Coordinator for Arcadia Valley R-II Schools.

Currently the following sites have agreed to host the Forum in their area and it is expected that other sites will be added to the list. Please contact the site for arrangements, as seating is limited at most sites.
> Southeast RPDC 800-401-6680 or 573-651-5161
> South-Central RPDC in Rolla 573-341-6473 or 800-667-0665
> Northeast RPDC in Kirksville 888-878-7732
> Northwest RPDC in Maryville 800-663-3348 or 660-562-1995
> Consolidated School District (CSD) in St. Louis 800-835-8282
> There will also be limited seating at the MOREnet building in Columbia

◆ Show-Me TechKnowledge Day 2004
--*Submitted by Sally Burnett, Show-Me TechKnowledge 2004 Chairperson*

The third annual Show Me TechKnowledge Day will be held on February 18, 2004 from 7:00 AM to 12:00 noon in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor in Jefferson City.

Based on a review of applications, this year's event shows great promise. Congratulations to the following districts/schools chosen to participate:

Affton	Rogers Middle School
Bolivar R-I	Bolivar Intermediate
	Bolivar High School
Branson R-IV	Branson Primary School
Cape Girdardeau	Cape Girdardeau Middle School
	Clippard Elementary
	Barbara Blanchard Elementary
Fort Osage R-I	Fire Prairie Middle School
	Fort Osage High School
Joplin R-VIII	Joplin Schools Gifted Center
Laquey R-V	Laquey Elementary
Liberty	Manor Hill Elementary
Marceline R-V	Walt Disney Elementary
Moberly	Gratz Brown Elementary
Orrick R-XI	Orrick High School
Richland R-IV	Richland Elementary
Southland C-9	Southland Elementary
St. James R-I	Lucy Wortham James Elementary
Valley Park	Valley Park Elementary
Warsaw R-IX	Warsaw High School

Schools are doing great things with technology in Missouri! If you'd like to showcase your students, it's not too early to consider submitting an application for the 2005 event.

A grassroots organization, Show-Me TechKnowledge helps identify and support students as they exhibit effective and innovative uses of technology. State leaders, policy-makers and others are invited to the Capitol Rotunda to view the exhibits, talk to the students, and learn how education technology positively impacts teaching and learning. Representatives from various educational groups, businesses, and organizations throughout the state are supporters of the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day.

◆ Middle School Teachers Funding Possibility: NEC Perfect Classroom Competition
http://www.sciserve.org/cgi-bin/nec/PerfClassroom.asp

A national competition for middle school science teachers, NEC Perfect Classroom Competition is designed to support teachers' efforts to improve their classrooms and to enhance the learning experience for their students. The competition seeks to acknowledge the creativity of teachers and to help bridge the gap in classroom funding for three prize-winning teachers.

Research indicates that teaches spend an average of $400 of their own money per year on classroom supplies. The competition will award $9,000 in cash to teachers across the country to make their idea of the perfect classroom a reality.

To enter the competition, please access and print out the application form, release and letter. The application form can be filled out online prior to printing. Entries must be submitted by February 9, 2004. Winners will be selected and announced in conjunction with National Teacher Appreciation Week in May of 2004. Mail your questions to mailto:emints-info@more.net

◆ Missouri Schools and Programs in the News

Hannibal
Congratulations to Mr. Terry Smith's 4th Grade class for being selected the EduHound Spotlight Classroom of the Week recently! Visit his classroom at http://home.dstream.net/~tksmith

eMINTS

Congratulations to the eThemes staff for their recent landmark achievement! As of the end of December, the eThemes site recorded over one million visitors per quarter (October, November, and December) for the first time in their existence. The number of hits on the site attests to its usefulness to educators at all levels. It is rare for a non-commercial site to achieve over one million hits per quarter. We are proud of the eThemes site and the special services that the eThemes staff provides to eMINTS teachers.

◆ Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others upload an original student project onto a network server?

A. **No** Students are the owners of their original projects and permission must be obtained before the work is posted.

CAUTION: Please refer to district policy concerning identification of students by name, photograph, etc., and parent permission policy.

◆ Mark Your Calendar

February 1	Newsline published online
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday - State Offices Closed
February 16	President's Day - State Offices Closed
February 18	Show-Me TechKnowledge Day (7:00 AM-12:00 Noon)
	Third Floor Capitol Rotunda
	Jefferson City, MO
February 23	Title IID eMINTS Workshop (9:00 AM – 12:00 noon)
	Governor Office Bldg, Room 450
	Jefferson City, MO
February 25	Newsline articles due
March 1	Newsline published online
March 10	METPA Forum: No Child Left Behind and Technology
March 24-25	METPA Technical Assistance for Technology Plan Review
	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference,Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
March 25	Newsline articles due
March 31	District Technology Plans are due to DESE
March 31	FY05 eMINTS Applications due to DESE
April 7-9	eMINTS Grant Reading
April 15-16	Technology Plan Reading

◆ Upcoming 2004-2005 Conferences

February 19-21	Interface A-Grades K-6 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum

February 22-24	Interface B-Grades 7-12 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum
March 1-3	Ohio SchoolNet Technology Conference 2004 Columbus, Ohio http://www.osn.state.oh.us/stateconf
March 9-10	RCET-SW Education and Technology Conference Springfield, MO www.rcet.net/Conf03/ConfCard.htm
March 10-12	MACUL 2004-Enhancing Education Through Technology Grand Rapids, Michigan http://www.macul.org/conferences
March 24-25	Higher Education Learning and Information eXchange (HELIX) 2004 MOREnet Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/helix2004
March 24-25	Connections 2004: MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences
June 21-23	NECC 2004 New Orleans, LA
July 15-16	Missouri Distance Learning Conference (MoDLA) Site to be determined
October 3-5	Missouri Educational Technology Conference - 2004 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO

◆ From the Mailbag

United States Colored Troops in Missouri
http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education

The Missouri State Archives' education website will soon house a new lesson plan to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and support student study in African American History. The educational materials will be available on the Archives' website, a division of the office of Secretary of State Matt Blunt, beginning Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

United States Colored Troops in Missouri: Finding African American History at the Missouri State Archives is geared toward students in grades five through eight, and written with an emphasis on the importance of original documents in the study of history. The Colored Volunteer Descriptive List and the Colored Volunteer Enlistment Record of George W. Reynolds, an enslaved African American from

St. Joseph, are presented for analysis by students as they learn about the role that United States Colored Troops played in Missouri during the Civil War.

The new lesson plan is aligned to meet standards of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Framework for Curriculum Development in Social Studies. In addition to images of original documents, *United States Colored Troops in Missouri* contains a lesson overview, two histories dealing with the role of U.S. Colored Troops in Missouri during the Civil War, an analysis of the importance of reviewing original documents, a worksheet, an enrichment activity list, discussion questions, and listed sites of interest.

For more information on *United States Colored Troops in Missouri*, contact Kelly Smith, Education Specialist at the Archives, at (573) 526-5296 or kelly.smith@sos.mo.gov

Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation
http://www.mhopus.org
The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation supports music education and its many benefits through the donation and repair of musical instruments to underserved schools, community music programs and individual students nationwide.

Technology for Teaching
Hewlett Packard Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative
http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html
The Hewlett Packard Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative is designed to support the innovative use of technology in K-16 education, and to help identify K-12 schools and higher education institutions that Hewlett Packard might support with future grants. The K-12 Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative provides awards to K-12 public schools that are using a collaborative, team-based approach to implementing technology integration projects. Teams of five teachers from at least 150 schools will receive the equipment, professional development and support they need to effectively integrate technology into their instruction. The focus of the project must be on using technology to teach, rather than teaching students to use technology. K-12 public schools across the country are eligible to apply. The Higher Education Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative provides support to full-time faculty members at accredited two-or four-year colleges or universities for projects that will result in sustainable advances in teaching and learning by effectively applying pervasive computing paradigms to the academic environment in math, science, computer science, and engineering. The intent of the grant is for educators to share educational approaches and experiences with other professors on campus and beyond. Support includes one of three Hewlett Packard product packages, a $7,500 stipend, and helpdesk support. Based on the outcomes of the projects funded through this initiative in 2004, Hewlett Packard will offer grant recipients the opportunity to apply for additional, higher-value grants in 2005. The application deadline is March 1, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

Community Support from John Deere
John Deere Foundation
http://www.deere.com/en_US/compinfo/johndeere_foundations/contributions_index.html?sidenavstate=00000000000000001
The John Deere Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of Deere & Company, provides support to nonprofit organizations in communities where the company's employees live and work. (A list of company locations is available on the company website
http://www.deere.com/en_US/deerecom/johndeere_worldwide/index.html?sidenavstate=000001 . Grants are also made to selected national organizations. The Foundation supports programs in education, health and human services, community development, and arts and culture. Applications are accepted year-round and are reviewed twice a year in April and October. Visit the above website for more information.

YouthLearn
http://www.youthlearn.org/index.html
The YouthLearn Initiative offers youth development professionals and educators comprehensive services and resources for using technology to create exciting learning environments. YouthLearn,

created by the Morino Institute and now led by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), provides the tools you need to start or strengthen both after-school and in-school programs.

The YouthLearn Initiative, consisting of this comprehensive website, a growing online community, a free electronic newsletter, and an extensive manual called The YouthLearn Guide, goes a long way towards helping after-school instructors and classroom teachers find relevant, creative materials that can help them make good use of new technology and help them turn good learning programs into great ones.

National Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) Program
http://www.more.net/services/rva/
The U.S. Department of Energy's National Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) Program is a classroom-based, hands-on educational program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. JSS student teams apply math, science, and creativity to construct model solar-powered cars and race them in interscholastic competitions hosted within their schools or within their states or regions. JSS began in 1990 as a single demonstration race and expanded to 10 regional competitions in 1991. The program now uses public and private sector support to improve education in middle/junior high schools across the nation. In recent years, the event grew to 83 host sites in 26 states involving 100,000 students and 15,000 teachers.
From the National Renewable Energy Laboratory http://www.nrel.gov/
Office of Education Programs http://www.nrel.gov/education/

Intel Expands Its Support For Ed-tech Initiatives
http://www.intel.com/education/
Chip maker Intel Corp has expanded its stable of free, online resources for educators with the addition of three new tools intended to promote the effective use of technology in education. The resources, first announced at the National School Boards Association's Technology = Learning Conference last fall, include *Design and Discovery*, a program to encourage student interest in engineering through a series of classroom handouts and mentoring activities; *Learning with Handhelds*, a collection of learning projects that integrate handhelds in the classroom, including instructional examples appropriate for different grade levels and subject areas; and the *Intel Innovation in Education Institutes*, a series of face-to-face training sessions where teachers show other teachers how to incorporate these and other resources into their curriculum. The institutes target those who are responsible for providing professional development in the use of technology, use a hands-on lab environment, and are lead by experienced facilitators. The new Intel web resources are part of the Intel Innovation in Education Initiative, which aims to improve the quality of science, mathematics, technology, and engineering education by helping students develop the higher-level thinking skills they need to participate and succeed in a knowledge-based economy, the company said.

Penning With the Pros
http://www.greatplains.net/penning
The Great Plains Network is pleased to announce Penning with the Pros, which is a project exclusively for K-12 schools in Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota and Oklahoma.
Penning with the Pros is a writing contest with the end result being a publication of the winning pieces. This project will run throughout the 2003-2004 school year. The authors of the winning compositions will be notified in May. Each school will have a minimum of one published work. Grand Prize winners will receive prize money for virtual fieldtrips. In the three categories, essays, short stories and poetry, first prize will be granted $500, second place $300, and third place will receive $200.

Students in K-12 grade levels will take advantage of Internet2 to interact with authors and each other via videoconferencing, web pages, and streaming video. Meet with published authors where you can discuss the basics of writing: where ideas come from; how do I start; how do I publish; and they will practice peer editing under the guidance of the professional writers. Students will develop three different forms of composition, essays, short stories and poetry.
Contact Kristen Klaver at kklaver@ou.edu for more information.

NSTEP'S TechXplore
www.techxplore.org
NSTEP'S TechXplore is an innovative online competition and mentoring program dedicated to helping middle and high school students build the science and technology skills needed for future workplace success. This high - impact education program and competition connects teams of students with technology professionals from electronics, telecommunications, and high-tech companies to explore the world of technology. TechXplore engages the power of the Internet to bring the innovation, excitement, and expertise of the electronic industries into the classroom, clubhouse, or after-school program to advance student learning.

Teaching Teens To Teach
http://www.americaconnects.net/research/FLOCCurriculum/FLOCCurriculum.asp
Are you looking for ways to staff adult education classes or develop assistants for your computer lab? Developed by *For Love of Children* (*FLOC*) the "Teaching Teens to Teach" curriculum prepares teens to teach computer classes, as well as giving hints on how to develop their talents.
The curriculum includes four modules:
- Teaching Approaches and Techniques
- Effective Communication
- Project Management
- Practicum in Teaching

The curriculum includes content overviews, lesson plans, and activities. The curriculum also includes a video to be used during Module 1.

◆ Internet Sites of Interest

National Center on Accessible Information Technology in Education
http://www.washington.edu/accessit/index.php

KIDSPIRATION 2
http://www.inspiration.com/whats_new
Discover the visual way to think, write and comprehend. The new version of Kidspiration offers even more ways for students to improve early literacy skills. Enhanced capabilities help young students express themselves visually and recognize the connections between pictures, words and meanings. New tools for emergent readers and writers include:
-Symbol Maker for drawing
-Unlimited SuperGrouper images
-Venn diagram SuperGrouper option
-Pairing of words and symbols in Writing View
-One-click transfer to word processors
-75 standards-based activity templates, including math!
Visit the web site to read all about the new capabilities of Kidspiration 2.

Super Science Fair Projects
http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com
Guides middle school, jr. high and high school students through the intricacies of science fair projects; also includes a parents guide and a teacher's resource page. With the aid of a timeline and step-by-step outline, the student is guided through the process of showing how to keep a science log, choose a category and topic, research a project, complete all six steps of the scientific method, write a project report and abstract, make a display board and give an oral presentation of the project. Students learn how judges evaluate a project. A click on the "Secret Files" links them to projects, topics, and experiments as well as additional resources.

A Leg Up on the Science Fair
http://news.techlearning.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/hedO0FHUAc0E2V0CI8e0Ay
Do you dread helping students prepare for an upcoming science fair? A new resource helps middle, junior and senior high school students go through the process of designing science fair projects one

step at a time.
Source: Super Science Fair Projects.

Dragonfly
http://www.units.muohio.edu/dragonfly/index.htmlx
Dragonfly is a companion to a magazine of the same name. This page introduces basic science and nature concepts to the elementary student

Turtle Trails (North Carolina Aquariums)
http://www.ncaquariums.com/turtletrails
Sponsored by the North Carolina Aquariums, Turtle Trails, allows students and teachers to follow the movements of released, rehabilitated loggerhead sea turtles via a GPS tracking system. Read the latest journal entries, use maps to track turtle movement, or explore the Photo Gallery. Activities demonstrate why scientists use graphs, why the loggerhead deserves its name, about loggerhead species survival, and how animals use the earth's magnetic field for navigation.

Black History Month
February was chosen to celebrate Black History Month and African-American heritage because of the pioneers and institutions born in this month. Eubie Blake, W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass, Rosa Parks, and Langston Hughes all celebrated birthdays in February. The NAACP and 1st Pan African Congress were started in this month as well.

Some sites to help in this effort:
PBS: African-American World
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/
Your guide to African American history and culture. From Sojourner Truth to Jacob Lawrence discover the courage and talent that shaped the African American experience.

African American Odyssey
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/
This Library of Congress site showcases the library's collection of rare books, government documents, manuscripts, musical scores, plays, films and recordings related to the African American experience.

Our Shared History - African American Heritage
http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/
From far-reaching travel guides to new information on the Underground Railroad to ways to find African American ancestors who fought in the Civil War, check out Our Shared History to find all the exciting and innovative sites related to African American heritage.

African American Studies Research Guide
http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/af-am/
This guide is intended as a starting point for research into various areas of African American studies, including cultural and sociological studies, history, art and literature.

The Internet African American History Challenge
http://www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/
An interactive quiz that helps you sharpen your knowledge of African American History. It's an "open book" test, so if you're not sure of an answer you can check our reference material.

President's Day
This year, President's Day is observed on Monday, February 16, 2004.
Feb. 22, 1732 - George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
Feb. 12, 1809 - Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky.

Some sites to help in this effort:
The Presidents of the United States

http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents
The President biographies presented here are from the book The Presidents of the United States of America written by Frank Freidel and Hugh S. Sidey (contributing author), published by the White House Historical Association with the cooperation of the National Geographic Society

American Presidents: Life Portraits
http://www.americanpresidents.org
This web site contains a complete video archive of all American Presidents: Life Portraits, plus biographical facts, key events of each presidency, presidential places and reference material.

Mount Vernon Educational Resources
http://www.mountvernon.org/education/
Dedicated to Washington's home in Virginia, this site includes a visitor guide, virtual tour and educational resources.

George Washington: A National Treasure
http://www.georgewashington.si.edu/
Explore interactive portrait to learn about George Washington, including a chronology and lesson plans.

The History Place Presents Abraham Lincoln
http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/index.html
Illustrated chronology of Lincoln's life, with key points expanded upon in short articles.

Abraham Lincoln Online: Education Resources
http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/education/educate.htm
Extensive collection of Lincoln resources, including on-line versions of his speeches and writings.

Epson Photo Center Print Shop
http://photo.epson.com/marketplace
Free graphics and templates for a host of creative projects. It includes tips and techniques for printing photos, and ideas for classroom projects.

Hewlett Packard Site
http://h71036.www7.hp.com/hho/cache/257-0-0225-121.aspx
At this site you can find print and photo activities for Holidays and Events, Work at Home, Sports and Hobbies, Home and Family, Photo Fun and Crafts, and Cards and Stationary. Their Digital Photography Center http://h30015.www3.hp.com/hp dpc/home/home.asp has a multitude of tips for using your digital camera, including free online classes.

eThemes
Famous People: Explorers
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000152.shtml
These sites have information about famous explorers during the Age of Discovery. Learn about the sailors and others who explored the sea and land. Includes Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Ferdinand Magellan, Sir Francis Drake, Marco Polo, and others. Read biographies of these men and their journeys. Includes eThemes on St. Augustine and world maps and an eMINTS WebQuest on explorers.

Geography: Pacific Coast Region
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001151.shtml
These sites are about states along the Pacific Coast including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. There is also information about the Western states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. Learn about each state's history, state symbols, and famous people. Includes maps and many photographs. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the Western region of the United States.

Literature: "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001224.shtml

These sites are about the book "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl. There are lesson plans, vocabulary words, and suggested classroom activities. Take a virtual tour of the Empire State Building to see what James dreams about. Includes information about insects as well as recipes for peach desserts. There are also activities to tie into the book's theme of friendship.

Pioneer Life: Settling on the Homestead
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001153.shtml
These sites are about daily life on the frontier. Learn about frontier towns and the chores and games that the pioneers participated in. Read the original Homestead Act that prompted many people to move West. Includes videos and historical photographs. There are links to eThemes Resources on pioneer food, sod houses, and hardships along the Oregon Trail.

Animals: Utah Amphibians and Reptiles
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001218.shtml
These sites are about the amphibians and reptiles that live in Utah. Also learn about the similarities and differences between amphibians and reptiles. There are links to eThemes Resources on vertebrates and invertebrates and gila monsters.

Animals: Utah Birds
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001215.shtml
These sites are about the different species of birds that live in Utah. Includes descriptions and photographs. There is also information about how birds care for their young and how they survive the winter. There are links to eThemes Resources on birds and Missouri birds.

 Animals: Utah Fish
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001217.shtml
Learn about the species of fish that live in Utah. The sites cover many types of fish, including bass, perch, rainbow trout, and Utah's state fish, the Bonneville cutthroat trout. There are many photographs, descriptions, and facts about their behavior. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on Missouri fish.

Animals: Utah Mammals
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001216.shtml
Read descriptions and learn about the behavior and habitats of the mammals that live in Utah. The animals include Rocky Mountain elk, badger, bobcat, black bear, deer, martens, and more. Find out how these mammals adapt, migrate, or hibernate to survive the cold winter months. There are links to many eThemes Resources on mammals, bats, foxes, wolves, Utah endangered species, and more.

U.S. Flag
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001192.shtml
These sites are about the design of the early American flag. See how it changed over time as the country added more states. Learn about the controversy over who created the first flag - Betsy Ross or Francis Hopkinson. Includes the rules for displaying the flag, the symbolism of the colors and shapes, and information about Flag Day and the Pledge of Allegiance. There are links to eThemes Resources on Missouri's flag and the 13 colonies.

Cyberethics: Downloading Music from the Internet
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001138.shtml
These sites highlight the debate about downloading music from the Internet for free. Watch videos of musicians expressing their thoughts on the issue. There is also information about copyright law and explanations about why these types of downloads are considered illegal and unethical. These sites are helpful for teachers who want students to debate the issue. There are links to eThemes Resources on Internet safety and computer basics.

Geography: Middle Atlantic Region
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001193.shtml
These sites have information about the following Middle Atlantic states: New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. Learn about each state's symbols, major industries,

history, natural resources, and more. There are links to eThemes Resources on the thirteen colonies and New England.

Local Government: Mayor
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001225.shtml
These sites list the duties of mayors for different cities. Includes information about having a classroom election. There are voter registration cards, ballots, graphic organizers, and more.

Updated eThemes
Pioneer Life: Food
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000702.shtml
These sites have information about the types of food the pioneers ate and how they prepared and preserved their meals. Includes recipes for johnnycakes, brown sugar candy, snow ice cream, and molasses cake. Also includes some recipes for Native American and early African American dishes. There are links to eThemes Resources on pioneer life and westward expansion.

Transportation: Covered Wagons
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000482.shtml
These sites explain the different types of covered wagons that were used by pioneers to traverse the Oregon Trail in the late 19th century. Topics include the materials, dimensions, usage, manufacturers, cost, and durability of this primitive mode of transportation.

Westward Expansion: Hardships
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000268.shtml
These sites are about the various hardships the pioneers faced as they traveled to the West. Includes weather information, accidents, and diseases. Read personal narratives and stories.

Animals: Gila Monsters
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001017.shtml
These sites are about Gila monsters, one of two species of venomous lizards. Learn about the physical characteristics and defense mechanisms that help Gila monsters survive in the desert. Includes photographs and a diagram. Linked are two related eThemes Resources on desert animals and habitats.

Holiday: Groundhog Day
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000598.shtml
These sites include information about the history of this holiday and why we celebrate it. Learn more about Punxsutawney Phil and groundhogs. Vote online for whether Phil will or won't see his shadow. There are many classroom activity ideas and online games, plus information about Canada's groundhog named Willie. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on measuring shadows.

Holiday: Lunar New Year
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000612.shtml
These sites are about the Asian celebration of the Lunar New Year, called Chinese New Year in China. Topics include history of the holiday, celebrations, food, crafts, and more. There are photographs, video clips, and quizzes.

Math: Division
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000289.shtml
These sites have games and quizzes that test students' division skills. Includes sites with printable pages of practice problems. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on multiplication.